



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

COLONEL VAN T. BARFOOT

WHEREAS, Colonel Van T. Barfoot, United States Army retired and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, died on March 2, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Barfoot enlisted in the United States Army in 1940 and was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division, and he was later promoted to technical sergeant in 1941 and reassigned to the 157th Infantry Division in 1943; and

WHEREAS, on May 23, 1944, Sergeant Barfoot's company attacked with Sergeant Barfoot leading a squad to the German flank; and

WHEREAS, in an extraordinary display of courage and skill, Sergeant Barfoot destroyed two German machine gun nests, killed four German soldiers, and took 17 prisoners; and

WHEREAS, later the same day, the enemy launched a counterattack, during which then Sergeant Barfoot disabled a German tank using a Bazooka rocket launcher, killing three of the occupants as they attempted to escaped, and destroyed a German fieldpiece by using explosives, and he then assisted two of his seriously wounded men 1,700 yards to a safe position; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his heroic actions above and beyond the call of duty, then Sergeant Barfoot was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant and received the prestigious Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military decoration, on September 28, 1944, receiving the medal in field because he felt it was important not to leave his men; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Barfoot continued to serve his country with a long and exemplary career in the military, including duty in Korea and Vietnam before retiring in 1974; and

WHEREAS, after his retirement from the military, Colonel Barfoot generously gave of his time and talents to the Commonwealth as a member of the Board of Veterans Affairs, where he worked diligently on behalf of his fellow veterans; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Barfoot has received numerous awards and honors in recognition of his service, including a monument dedicated to him and a road named after him in his native Mississippi and the naming of the second Virginia Veterans Care Center at McGuire Veterans Administration Hospital after him and fellow Richmond-area Medal of Honor recipient, Colonel Carl Sitter; and

WHEREAS, throughout a long life dedicated to his country, Colonel Barfoot demonstrated great courage and loyalty under fire that served as a reminder of the perils faced daily by the thousands of Americans who currently serve in our armed forces overseas and whose devotion to duty places them in harm's way;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize with great sadness the loss of **COLONEL VAN T. BARFOOT** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of our citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RECOGNIZED, that I order the flags of the United States of America and the Commonwealth of Virginia to be flown at half-staff over the state Capitol building on March 5, 2012 in respect and memory of U.S. Army Colonel Van T. Barfoot and remain at half-staff until sunset; and

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Lesser Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia this fifth of March two thousand and twelve.




Governor


Secretary of the Commonwealth